



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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March 18, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO USE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND TO SUPPORT A
ZONING MAP CONVERSION PROJECT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING
(3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve and authorize the use of funding from the Information Technology Fund (ITF), in the amount of \$460,000, to support a joint project between the Department of Regional Planning and the Department of Public Works for the conversion of map zoning data from Computer Aided Design (CAD) to a format compliant with the current Geographic Information System (GIS) standards.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This action will allow the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to allocate ITF funds for a project recommended by the ITF Executive Committee. It is recommended that your Board approve \$460,000 for the Zoning Map Conversion Project, jointly managed by the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) and the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Implementation of strategic plan goals

This project supports the County's Strategic Plan Goals for Service Delivery and Organizational Effectiveness. It particularly addresses the following Goals and Strategy:

- Goal No. 3: Organizational Effectiveness -- Ensure that service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented.
- Strategy 3.3.2: Develop structures and systems, and establish criteria to enhance collaboration countywide.

JUSTIFICATION

In their February 11, 2002 meeting, the ITF Executive Committee supported, and formally recommended, Board approval of the Zoning Map Conversion Project. This zoning project will replace the maps, currently in three different formats, into a uniformed GIS format.

Submission of this Board Letter for your Board's approval of this project and the requested ITF funding was delayed due to DRP's inability to hire GIS staff to support the Zoning Map Conversion Project as identified in their proposal. The delay was due to the County's imposed hiring freeze. The DRP's staffing issues were successfully resolved and a project plan submitted.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Upon approval by your Board, the ITF will fund the DRP and the DPW's Zoning Map Conversion Project in the amount of \$460,000. This project is partially funded by both departments. The DRP and DPW are each contributing \$700,000 and \$600,000, respectively. The total cost of this project, including ITF funding, is \$1,760,000.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENT

None.

IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES

For a number of years, the DRP used Computer Aided Design (CAD) software that was compatible with the software used by DPW. The DPW, however, changed their CAD software from Computer Vision to a different system, Microstation, with the primary objective of providing automation of the DPW's design activities for roads, sewers, water systems, etc. DPW also started using Geographic Information System (GIS) software (Arc/INFO) for mapping purposes; the same software the DRP used for its operations, except for zoning.

This project provides the necessary conversion and integration of the “technologically” obsolete zoning maps (in CAD format) to a GIS format. This project will provide the following system benefits:

- Integrate zoning information for the unincorporated areas of the County with other environmental information via the Internet.
- Provide Assessor’s Office staff access to zoning information to enhance their internal appraisal process for unincorporated areas.
- Provide zoning information to the proposed DPW and DRP integrated “Development and Permit Tracking System II.”
- Integrate highway zoning information with parcel layers to implement or confirm highway requirements.
- Replace manual zoning maps (and maps maintained by obsolete software) with a higher quality GIS database (including built-in intelligence), to provide seamless zoning layers to accommodate a variety of mapping production needs.
- Provide the DRP development and zoning case information.

In addition to the above benefits, the public, in the unincorporated areas, will be able to access zoning information via the Internet. This will reduce the need for the public to travel to DRP field offices. It also improves the ability of DRP and DPW staff to respond to simple zoning inquiries made on the phone or in person.

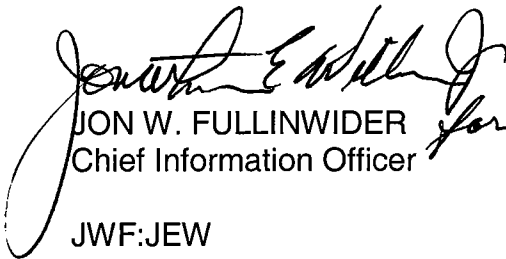
Finally, this project, which will use map web-sever technology, provides an easier way to access information. It also promotes inter/intra-department collaboration and information sharing within the three departments (DRP, DPW, Assessor), by using a consistent GIS format.

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CONCLUSION

Your Board's approval of the recommended action will authorize the use of ITF funds for the DRP and DPW's Zoning Map Conversion Project in the amount of \$460,000. The ITF Executive Committee recommends your approval of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chief Information Officer

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ITF Project File